

tunnels in damaged condition. The reason for damage of the eggs has not been identified. This is the sole reason why hatchlings have never been observed in the sanctuary where mortality rate of egg seems to be 100%. It is curious to note that during late May and June, it is very easy to discern the sex of the animal as the females despite the inclement weather, remain confined to the tunnels, in a bid to guard the eggs lying inside the tunnel. On several occasions

4-5 egg shells were seen lying at the mouth of tunnel in which a female was lying.

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### 23. RECORDS OF WATER SNAKES (HOMALOPSIDAE: SERPENTES) FROM GUJARAT STATE

During surveys of snakes in Gujarat State, I received five live water snakes, on February 2, 1988, from local fisherman of Navsari, Valsad District. All were trapped in fishing nets, during fishing in the estuary of Purna river. *Cerberus rhynchops* was the commonest species and there was a specimen of *Gerardia prevostiana*.

*C. rhynchops* occurs in the estuaries of all big rivers of south Gujarat, but *G. prevostiana* is being recorded for first time from Gujarat.

**Measurements and Details:** Snout to vent length 52 cm, tail length 8 cm and total length is 60 cm. Supralabials 7, 4th touches the eye; infralabials 9 with two pairs of genials; temporals 1+2; 1 pre, 1 supra and 2 postoculars; body scales smooth and 18:17:15 in row; ventrals 154; subcaudals 35 divided; anal plate 2; sex: male.

Eye small with vertical pupil. Body colour uniformly dark grey, upper lip and lower jaw white and other three rows of body scales are light grey, belly white, with the edges being dark grey.

According to Smith (1943, FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, Vol. III), this species is distributed in the coasts and in tidal rivers of India, from Bombay to Malabar, and is reported from Sri Lanka (Kalani river), Burma (Gulf of Martaban) and the west coast of Malay Peninsula. The present record from Purna river, 3 km from Navsari, Valsad District therefore extends the range of the species.

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### 24. COMMENTS ON THE NOTE "FIRST RECORD OF *MICROHYLA RUBRA* (JERDON) (AMPHIBIA: ANURA) FROM MAHARASHTRA" BY KAMBLE AND GHATE

-Kamble and Ghate (1994) have recorded *Microhyla rubra* (Jerdon) (Amphibia: Anura) for the

first time from Maharashtra based on a specimen available in the Western Regional Station, Zoological